

The Stand-Alone Paragraph Guided Notes

In the space below, answer this question: **What is a paragraph?**

Now, in the space below, write the “official” definition:

A group of sentences that is focused on one main idea.

The three parts to every paragraph are: (intro, body, conclusion)

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

Read the paragraph below:

There are plenty of healthy, tasty snacks for people to eat. One snack is fruit of any sort. Another healthy snack is popcorn. Lastly, the combination of cranberries and cashews makes for a great snack. These are three examples of snacks that are delicious and good for you.

Reread the paragraph and follow these steps:

- 1) Place a box over the introduction;
- 2) Place parentheses () around the body;

3) Underline the conclusion.

Read this paragraph and follow those same directions (BOX the introduction, PARENTHESES around the body and UNDERLINE the conclusion):

It is clear winter has arrived at last. For one, snow is falling to the ground and sticking. In addition, the leaves have long since dropped from the trees. Also, people all around are wearing warmer clothes --- sweaters and vests, hats and gloves. Finally, the days are much shorter. The winter weather is here to stay for some time.

What is *the introduction* to a paragraph?

The introduction is the sentence that opens the paragraph and tells the reader what your paragraph is really about. (This is usually written in the form of a topic sentence, but can include other sentences as well, such as a hook...)

What is *the body* of a paragraph?

The body portion of the paragraph includes the sentences that tell the reader what you want them to know. (If the paragraph is about what you did over winter break, for instance, these sentences actually tell the reader what you did over the break.)

What is *the conclusion* of a paragraph?

This is the sentence that wraps up the whole paragraph so the reader knows the paragraph is finished --- it was not cut off, nothing was deleted or forgotten.

Now, read this paragraph and follow the same directions as before:

There are countless healthy snacks people can enjoy. One of the best snacks is fruit. Apples, pears, and grapes are especially sweet and juicy. Popcorn is another tasty snack. With a pinch of salt, it will be gobbled up by almost anyone --- especially if you're watching a movie! The last delicious snack is the combination of cashews and dried cranberries. When mixed together, they are a delicious treat. All of these foods can help build a healthy body and make a person's taste buds tingle.